

Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of The 'Aha Pūnana Leo

WHEREAS, The 'Aha Pūnana Leo was founded in 1982 with the vision of *E ola ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i* (The Hawaiian language shall live), when a group of Hawaiian language educators, after consulting with elders, resolved that creating an environment where Hawaiian would be the ordinary language of interaction for children was key to the language's survival, with a first preschool established in Kekaha, Kaua'i in August 1984; and

WHEREAS, The 'Aha Pūnana Leo has since expanded to 11 preschools on Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Maui, O'ahu and Kaua'i, while it has succeeded in its goal of raising the first of many generations to come using Hawaiian as a first and primary language; and

WHEREAS, The 'Aha Pūnana Leo has been fully accredited in a historic designation through the world's first early education accreditation review conducted through an endangered and indigenous language by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC), who will use this evaluation and The 'Aha Pūnana Leo's groundbreaking work in setting indigenous language standards as a blueprint for a new preschool through high school (P-12) review process; and

WHEREAS, The 'Aha Pūnana Leo, with help through an innovative partnership with Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i, Hilo, along with the financial support of its partners and collaborators the Kamehameha Schools, the Administration for Native Americans, the Kellogg Foundation, the Lannan Foundation and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, has provided ongoing professional development to their administration staff and teachers in Hawaiian language and early childhood education courses through their Niulohiki Hawaiian language distance learning program; and

WHEREAS, The 'Aha Pūnana Leo initiated a Hi'ipēpē Infant Program in August 2006 located on the campus of Pūnana Leo o Hilo, which has grown to include a site at Pūnana Leo o Wai'anae, in which infants and toddlers participate in a full-day Hawaiian Medium Education program, whose curriculum and activities are based on the Kumu Honua Mauli Ola Hawai'i educational philosophy, the Hawaiian language, as well as modern developmental strategies; and

WHEREAS, The 'Aha Pūnana Leo has served as a laboratory setting for six years of teacher training in Hawaiian language through the WINHEC-accredited Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i, Hilo as part of a P-20 language revitalization program including the first indigenous language graduate program in the US;


NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2014, as

“‘AHA PŪNANA LEO DAY”

in Hawai'i, and ask all citizens of the Aloha State to join us in applauding its landmark accreditation by WINHEC as another achievement in its more than 30 year history of dedication to developing high quality "language nests" of learning, perpetuating a living Hawaiian language for all of Hawai'i and supporting of one of the state's official languages.

DONE at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this eighth day of October, 2014.


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i


SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i